

Crowds Celebrate Fourth at State Capitol

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The North Carolina State Capitol and the North Carolina Museum of History co-hosted a popular patriotic celebration on the 4th of July. A crowd of 4,000 people enjoyed entertainment, patriotic ceremonies, exhibits, food from vendors, and tours of both facilities.

The Capitol grounds provided shade for family picnics and exhibitors, while visitors enjoyed hours of lively music by the Raleigh Concert Band and the St. Mark's Jazz Band. Long lines formed for guided tours of the building.

At noon Capitol historian Raymond Beck read portions of the Declaration of Independence and then in a stirring address paid high tribute to the signers, telling of the price they paid for their actions. "They valued their security, but they valued liberty more,"

he said. Military reenactors and veterans commemorated North Carolina's veterans by placing wreaths at various monuments on the grounds. Dr. Henry Brown, a reenactor in the 6th North Carolina Revolutionary Troops, led the crowd in a rousing "Hip, hip, huzzah!" at the end of the ceremony.

Girl Scout volunteers applied more than five hundred temporary patriotic tattoos to faces and arms. Young children bounced inside an interactive playground as the tempting smells of kettle corn, pizza, funnel cakes, and hot dogs mingled and drifted across the grounds. Three Raleigh Heritage Trail museums participated: Oak View County Park provided a rope-making activity; the Raleigh City Museum offered a flag-making craft; and Mordecai Historic Park told the story of North Carolina's three presidents, near the Three Presidents' Statue.

Visitors to the Museum of History lined up early for a hat-making activity and stayed late to appreciate the fancy footwork of the Wolfpack Cloggers. In between, they enjoyed games, exhibits, a square dance performance by the Magic Squares, and a chair-caning demonstration by Elizabeth Faison from House in the Horseshoe.



Research Progresses on Enslaved People at Bentonville

The first evidence of Harper family slaves is in the 1831 will of James Woodard (Woodward) of Sampson County, in which he gave his wife five Negroes (Grace, Tilly, Lucy, Charity, and Arnel), with his two daughters as her heirs. One daughter, Amy Ann Woodard, married John Harper in 1838. As part of her possible dowry, he received two slaves, Lucy (16) and her child Alexander (7 months) from James Woodard in 1838. Before 1840 Harper acquired another enslaved person from an unknown source. The 1840 census lists three blacks in his household: 1 male under 10 (Alexander), 1 female under 10, and 1 female between 10 and 24 (Lucy).

In 1843 John Harper purchased two more people, Elizer (Eliza) and Oliver, from Calvin Jernigan. By 1850 he held five slaves. The census listed them as "29 F [Eliza], 27 F [Lucy], 15 M [possibly Oliver], 11 M [Alexander], 9 F [unknown]."

Between 1850 and 1860 Harper sold two slaves, possibly Eliza and Oliver, though no record of sale has been located. By 1860 the census listed John Harper owning 3 slaves and a slave cabin. The 38-year-old female and the 21-year-old-male imply Lucy and Alexander were still with the Harpers. An unnamed 19-year-old female was also present. Previously some people thought she was handicapped, but there is no such evidence in the census.

In 1860 the slave census for Sampson County listed Amy Woodard (Amy Harper's mother) with ten slaves and two slave cabins. By 1864 Amy Harper received two slaves, Tilla and Arnold (and possibly their children) from her mother's estate.

In March 1865 the armies of Generals Sherman and Johnston fought near Bentonville. With the Harper House a Union field hospital, it is likely the Harper slaves were freed. Most ex-slaves during the Carolinas Campaign followed Sherman's army as refugees, but some from Bentonville remained near their former homes.

The former Harper slaves moved to Sampson County after the war, as shown in the 1870 census for Piney Grove Township, which has three Harpers listed as "black": Arnold (age 43, wife Hannah), Alexander (age 31, wife Clarrisy) and Abram (age 25, wife Charity) Harper. Perhaps Lucy had died; she could not be located in the 1870 N.C. census. Alexander was a Harper slave; his wife (aged 29) might have been the unnamed 1860 slave, though further research is needed to prove this theory.

(Continued on page 3)

(Enslaved People at Bentonville, cont. from p. 2)

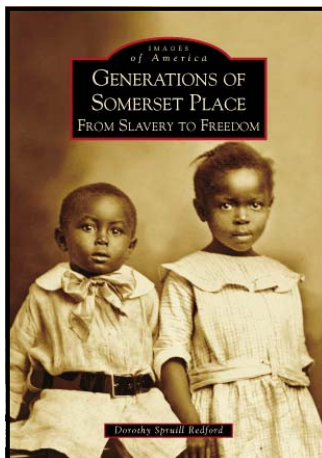
Examining the census of 1860 for Sampson County and comparing ages of slaves, it is possible three of the “Harper” slaves were actually part of Amy Woodard’s estate, namely Abram and his wife Charity, though Arnold could be one as well. Amy Woodard’s will stated that Amy Harper would receive Arnold and Tilly and their children, and it is likely that Abram was Arnold’s child. Amy Woodard held a male aged 15 (possibly Abram), a female aged 11 (possibly Charity) and a male aged 30 (possibly Arnold). In both James Woodard and Amy Woodard’s wills, slaves named Lucy, Charity, Tilly, Arnold/Arnel, and Grace appear; these names are consistent with names of Harper slaves. The census is a good primary resource, but some census takers made recording mistakes or received false information. Abram Harper and Charity Harper filed for a co-habitation marriage license in Johnston County in 1863: perhaps Amy received them before her mother’s will was probated in Sampson County in 1864.

By 1880 Alexander (Alec) Harper was living in Sampson County; Arnold Harper was in Duplin County; and Abram and Charity were not listed in the census in the state.

Lacking private records of the Harper family, I believe (from probate, will, and census records), we can say the Harper slaves were once part of the Woodard estate, were part of Amy’s inheritance from her parent’s estate, and moved back to Sampson County after the war. Further research in public records is needed to understand these forgotten people. Documented copies of my work are available.

(Becky Sawyer)

Dot Redford Has Another Book on the Way!



Somerset Place’s Dot Redford is at it again. She has a new book, *Generations of Somerset Place: From Slavery to Freedom*, about to be produced and for sale by Arcadia Publishing in its popular illustrated Images of America series. Through an eclectic assortment of vintage images collected by Dot, *Generations of Somerset Place* presents the faces and stories of former slaves, slave owners, and their descendants. Many of them still live in the Creswell area.

When the institution of slavery ended in 1865, Somerset plantation was the third largest plantation in North Carolina. Located in the rural, northeastern part of the state, Somerset was ultimately home to more than eight hundred enslaved blacks and four generations of a planter family. During the eighty years that Somerset was an active plantation, workers farmed hundreds of acres planted with rice, oats, wheat, corn, peas, beans, and flax. Today Somerset Place offers a realistic view of what life was like for the slaves and free men who lived and worked on the plantation, once one of the Upper South’s most prosperous enterprises.

Dorothy Spruill Redford is a descendant of Somerset Place slaves, director of Somerset Place, and author of *Somerset Homecoming: Recovering a Lost Heritage*.

The Images of America series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each title presents distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today.

(Adam Latham, Arcadia Publishing)

Cooperative Venture Restoring NCTM's Piedmont Airlines DC-3

The North Carolina Transportation Museum's efforts to restore its Piedmont Airlines DC-3 aircraft got a boost in June.

Thirty students and instructors in the Transportation Division of Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC) visited the museum for lunch and an inspection of the plane.



John Bechtel and Knox Bridges check the DC-3 wing.

As a result, the college's aviation maintenance program agreed to restore the control surfaces of the plane at its campus, located in the T. H. Davis Aviation Center at Piedmont Triad International Airport near Greensboro. The control surfaces consist of the ailerons (attached to the wings) and elevators and rudder (attached to the tail).

"This will be a really good experience for the students," says Larry Belton, an instructor in aviation maintenance at GTCC. "It's part of the history of North Carolina aviation."

Douglas Aircraft Company manufactured more than 10,000 DC-3s and military C-47s (essentially the same airplane) from 1935 to 1947. This remarkable aircraft advanced commercial aviation and contributed to the Allied victory in World War II.

Veterans of Piedmont Airlines serve on the museum's active DC-3 committee. Members include Capt. Howard Miller, who flew DC-3s early in his career, and Ronnie Macklin, who maintained the planes. The committee plans to purchase a missing landing gear (including two wheels) for the museum aircraft and will re-create the plane's trademark insignia, "Douglas Around the World."

The Piedmont DC-3 will be displayed in NCTM's Back Shop exhibit hall.

(Walter Turner)

What's Up at Fort Dobbs?

We have received preliminary drawings of a conjectural reconstructed fort from archaeologist Dr. Larry Babits of East Carolina University based on his analysis of old and new sources about the fort and the French and Indian War.

Site master planning continues. Plans and initial supporting documents for garrison development, 1750s clothing guidelines, and juried event forms were developed. The highly-qualified costume designer, Luther Sowers, has been contacted to begin work on the garrison uniform.

Plans are underway to reopen for garrison weekends, long hunter camps, and other programming. Preparation is ongoing for special events, including N.C.'s Great Wagon Festival and 18th-century Trade Fair. Interpreters regionally and nationwide will attend that event. Local businesses have agreed to help with funding.

The Fort Dobbs Alliance (our support group) is moving forward with a capital campaign and membership drive. The group also has received \$5,000 for educational programming from Iredell County.

(Beth Carter)

Civil War Trails Sites Selected in Edenton

Two sites in the Edenton area are included in the new North Carolina Civil War Trails program, a series of wayside exhibits across the state. Phase One, the Carolinas Campaign, focuses on Sherman's Carolinas Campaign in North Carolina and sites east of Salisbury.

The Civil War Trails bugle logo and sign for the Battle of the Albemarle Sound is located at the Edenton harbor in the downtown area. A display describes the three-hour battle during which the Confederate ironclad ram *Albemarle* defeated a Federal flotilla on May 5, 1864. Information is included as well about men from the Albemarle area who served in the Union navy and those who fought for the Confederate cause. The Edenton Bell Battery, as Company B, Third Battalion, N.C. Light Artillery was known, also is featured.

Located at the Cannon's Ferry Riverwalk fifteen miles north of Edenton is the War on the Chowan River sign. U.S. Navy vessels patrolled the Chowan River from Franklin, Virginia, to Edenton during the period when the river served as the boundary between Federal-occupied counties to the east and Confederate-held counties to the west. Information about the Federal gunboats *Shawsheen*, *Lockwood*, and *Underwriter* are featured at the Cannon's Ferry site.

The free North Carolina Civil War Trails brochure is available at the Historic Edenton visitor center.

(Kathy Busby)



Illuminations Summer Performing Arts Series Winds up at Festival Park

This year's "Illuminations" summer series, presented by the N.C. School of the Arts, soon will be in its final week, ending August 6 with a closing week's worth of film festival.

Since early July the series has brought such performances as jazz and percussion bands and various dancers to the coastal park.

The series also offered classical music on weekday afternoons in July. (Tanya Young)



Fort Anderson Flag Reclaimed

Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson has raised the \$40,000 necessary to acquire the actual garrison flag that flew over the fort late in the Civil War. Now the historic flag will be brought back for conservation and display at the fort. During the past six months local supporters, businesses, reenactors, and historical organizations all have “pitched in” to help purchase the flag from a private collector.

The flag will be displayed and the interesting story of its 1865 capture from the fort by Union forces will be detailed in displays later this year. In addition to a panel exhibit, a donor board will recognize contributors.

(Fay Mitchell Henderson)

Grant Puts Railroad History in N.C. School Libraries

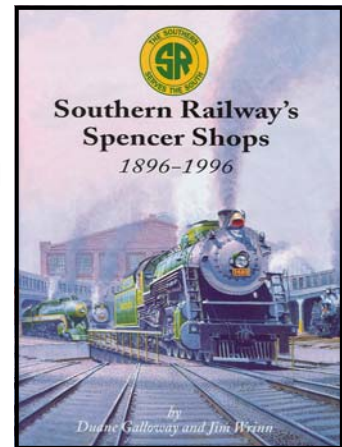
Middle school students in our state will now have access to the story of Southern Railway's Spencer Shops, thanks to a grant from the Mary Duke Biddle Semans Foundation.

The N.C. Transportation Museum, in the former Spencer Shops, where Southern's steam locomotives were repaired and maintained for more than half a century, is using the \$3,500 grant to distribute 223 copies of *Southern Railway's Spencer Shops: 1896-1996* to middle school media centers in the Piedmont region of the state.

The 105-page book, written by Duane Galloway and Jim Wrinn in 1996, tells the story of shop workers who repaired the giant locomotives, depicts life in the town that grew up around the shops, and details the evolution of the site from a booming repair facility to a museum preserving the history of transportation in North Carolina.

The heavily illustrated book is the story of “unsung heroes,” according to its introduction—the workers who kept the railroad operating smoothly. “For every thundering freight train wheeling textiles, tobacco and furniture out of North Carolina, hundreds labored in the cavernous Spencer back shop,” the introduction reads. “So many steam-era railway shops have closed, as Spencer did, only to be forgotten.”

(Misty Ebel)



Land Transferred at Horne Creek Farm

After years of intermittent negotiation, Horne Creek at last is, in a real estate sense, a full-fledged state historic site. The Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has transferred 104 acres to the Department of Cultural Resources.

The land formerly was managed by DENR as part of Pilot Mountain State Park. Site and park staff have cooperated in managing the resources since October 1987, when the land was designated a historic site. Even after both agencies agreed upon the transfer and new site boundaries, the reallocation still required legislative action (since the land is in the State Nature and Historic Preserve), approval by the Council of State, and the signatures of both departmental secretaries. The new arrangement will allow streamlined operations for the Horne Creek staff and the division.

(Jim McPherson)

Festival Park Features Children's Shows

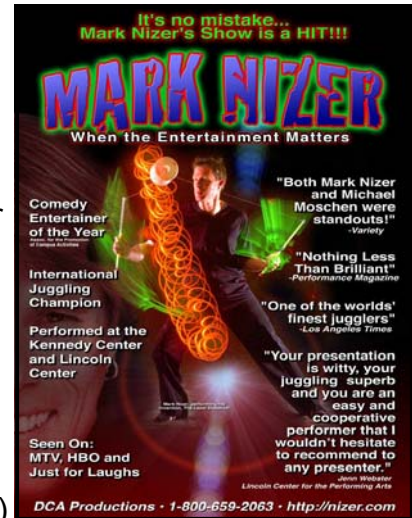


On July 12-15 clown Bob Berky offered a fast-paced and varied program including mime, juggling, and physical comedy. In both a charming and inviting style, he encouraged participation from his audience. While most of the performance reflected Berky's comic gifts, it was equally wonderful to sense his passion and respect for the clowning tradition. Berky has performed as a solo artist throughout the world

Juggler Mark Nizer brought his original comedy and world-class juggling to the stage at Festival Park July 19-22. Nizer's mother signed him up for a juggling class twenty-four years ago, and he has been juggling ever since. *Performance Magazine* called his show, "nothing less than brilliant." Since winning the International Juggling Championship, Nizer has taken his one-man show to thousands of venues around the world.

Both programs were made possible by the Outer Banks Community Foundation.

(Tanya Young)



Editor Says Farewell to Historic Sites

As many readers already know, this is my last issue of *InSites* and its predecessor, the *Staff Bulletin*. That publication, by the way, was begun in July 1985, succeeding the monthly *Historic Siter* edited by Nancy Murray, who still serves in the division office. Nancy and I had already been around for some time, both of us being "mossbacks" who had come to Historic Sites in the 1970s. A few other original mossbacks remain, including the coiner of the term, Archie Smith of Town Creek.

I want particularly to thank all the folks who over the years have contributed articles, photos, and ideas to our newsletters. You know who you are, and I am grateful to each of you. In addition to the regular public affairs folks and correspondents at various historic sites who sign articles, special words of gratitude are due Jim Willard, who for years cheerfully has provided countless quality images for all of the division; Mary Cook and Sandra Foil, who have spent many hours proofreading and improving copy; and Elizabeth Sumner, assistant editor and MS Publisher guru in several recent years.

I also appreciate the kindness and help I have received for more than three decades from all my friends past and present at Historic Sites as well as Archives and History in the newsletter and other ventures at various sites. Thanks to each of you!

For me, it's a new day. Thad Eure, who served as N.C. secretary of state seemingly forever, might have said the "oldest rat in the [Historic Sites] barn" is leaving.

In the words of John Denver's 1967 song (and one of Peter, Paul, and Mary's biggest folk hits):

I'm leavin' on a jet plane. . . . Don't know when I'll be back again.

Que pase bien. Vaya con Dios.

(Rick Knapp)